SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

The meeting was opened by Director Acton at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Acton read the Open Public Meeting Act.

Freeholders Present: Dept. Director Laury, Cross, Vanderslice, Bobbitt, and Timberman, Ware, Director Acton.

Presentations:

Freeholder Beth Timberman introduced the new Coordinator of the Cultural and Heritage Commission for the County, Kathy Mills. Ms. Mills presented her past experiences and credentials and answered questions from the Board. She was welcomed by the Freeholder Board.

CFO Doug Wright presented the 2011 audit. He noted the following key points to the audit:

- 1. The amount of the fund balance (surplus) is decreasing and noted a three year trend.
- 2. MIRNA is also trending down, likely due to the downturn in the economy.
- 3. The use of the fund balance to balance the budget is staying about flat, approximately 66.39 percent.
- 4. Our debt obligation did not increase significantly; the addition was 7.9 million from direct storm damage and repair from the two August storms.
- 5. The County's ability to borrow is still significantly below State guidelines. Per same the County is authorized to borrow up to the 2% level, we are currently at .80%.
- 6. The insurance self insured trust funds are critically low, especially for workman's compensation. This will have to be addressed in the 2013 budget process.
- 7. There were two findings; one is the fixed asset audit, which is cost prohibitive to complete and really brings no gain to the County. The second concerns the discrepancy in State guidelines and federal grant guidelines. The difference routinely creates a finding for not have the final paperwork on Social Services grants completed within thirty days.

It was noted by the Freeholders that the audit was very good and Mr. Wright was commended.

Freeholder Committee Reports:

Administration- Director Acton reported the County is investigation the possibility of going paperless for the Freeholder meetings. A conference call is being set up next week with Bergen County who has done this process successfully.

Public Service-Mr. Vanderslice reported that the improvements to the College funded though the chapter 12 bonds are progressing nicely, on time and within budget, a credit to the President of the College. He has attended meeting at the Vo-Tech and is continually impressed with the work that the administration and teachers are accomplishing there.

Health- Mr. Bobbitt reported that the committee is still working out the details of the administration of the department after Mrs. Hogate announced her departure. He is happy with the progress of the department.

Social Services- Ms. Timberman stated that the Salem-Bridgeton shuttle was up and running, so far the first three days of operation they have averaged four passenger per. She further noted that the County was collaborating with the United Way and Habitat for Humanity for the construction of handicapped ramps across the County.

Public Safety- Mr. Cross discussed and applauded the notable progress in obtaining the CLEA certification with the inspections upcoming next week for the Prosecutors and Sheriffs Offices. He detailed recent staff meeting involving the employees at the 911 Center and are he is encouraged by the quality of participation. He further noted the October 6^{th} the County is hosting the Burn House for area fire departments, as part of the ongoing training associated with the Fire Academy.

Transportation, Tourism, Agriculture- Mr. Ware reported on the recent meetings concerning Railroad funding including the meeting with the State Department of Transportation and with Senator Sweeney. In both cases the County was attempting to gain an additional tem million in funding to complete the overall railroad project.

Public Works- Mr. Laury commented on the guide rail projects across the County and listed the proposed state funded road projects coming up over the next four years. He also explained the light situation at the intersection of Alloway-Quinton Road and Rt. 540 in Alloway Township. He noted that the County had received a resolution from the Township requesting vehicle detection cameras to be installed on the light so that in all directions the light shows red, and when a vehicle approached the appropriate side turns green. It is felt that this will reduce the amount of high speed vehicles traveling through the intersection.

At 6:45 pm Deputy Director Laury moved that the Freeholders recess this workshop meeting to begin the general meeting of the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders, this was seconded by Freeholder Cross, and motion carried 7/0.

Respectively submitted,

Earl R. Gage Clerk of the Board